



By TED LEWIS

Washington, July 9.—The coming Senate investigation of activities of lobbyists for foreign governments could perform a real public service if it called as its leadoff witnesses Thomas E. Dewey, Sen. Thomas J. Dodd (D-Conn.) and Undersecretary of State George W. Ball.

Dewey's law firm—until the Turkish revolution of 1960—got a retainer of around \$150,000 a year for many years from the government of Turkey. Under the agreement the firm rendered "such legal and counseling services as required" in connection with Turkey's "affairs in the United States."

Dodd, in 1957 and 1958, before he was elected to the Senate, was a registered foreign agent for the government of Guatemala, his fees totaling \$66,000.

Undersecretary of State Ball's Washington law firm represented Cuban sugar interests from 1955 through 1958. According to Chairman Harold D. Cooley (D-N.C.) of the House Agriculture Committee, in 1956 alone Ball's firm was paid \$270,000 for lobbying in behalf of the Cuban sugar industry.

If Dewey, Dodd and Ball were hauled before the Senate lobby investigators the proper questions would be:

"Just what did you do to deserve these fat fees?"

"Did you try to influence legislation in behalf of your clients, or influence government policies?"

"Did you spread part of the fee around in behalf of your client? If so, to whom?"



George W. Ball

His firm lobbied for Cuban sugar

There has always been something smelly about this foreign agent business. Not that there is anything secret about what firms and individuals represent foreign interests. They are required to register at the Justice Department, giving the amount received and (after a fashion) itemize expenditures.

The itemized expenditures too often have a fishy smell, such as a recent foreign agent's report which listed \$5,199 for "television, radio and film work"—no names given.

When It Isn't Cricket to Name Names

What sort of financial stuff would a Senate investigation dig up?

There have been previous Congressional lobbying probes, but under the code fellow legislators are always protected. That is, unless their misdeeds were horrendous—such as outright bribes. On the picky stuff like a free trip to a banana republic, or half a dozen free meals, it isn't considered fair to name names.

The present decision to investigate stems from the brash way the horde of sugar lobbyists moved in during the Congressional fight over quotas for sugar producing countries. The probe, as now planned by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee is, however, not limited to the sugar lobbyists.

The investigation resolution as adopted by the committee calls for a "full and complete study" of the "nondiplomatic activities of representatives of foreign governments and the extent to which they attempt to influence United States policies."

This is pretty sweeping as an aim, and yet, if carefully scanned, could well be interpreted as permitting Undersecretary of State Ball's past activities in behalf of the Cuban sugar industry to be swept under the table. For Ball's firm did not represent the Cuban government, only the private associations of mill owners and cane growers.

A Look From Trujillo's Secret Files

Congressman Cooley has charged, however, that Ball, from 1955 to 1958, when his law firm had the Cuban account, had always resisted his efforts to break up the Cuban sugar monopoly.

"They talk as if sugar lobbying is a new thing," said Cooley. "This (meaning Ball's activities) shows that it's been going on a long time."

Cooley's comment was interesting, particularly as there has leaked out of the secret files of the late Dominican Republic dictator Trujillo a batch of documents showing the Congressman had been tagged as a "powerful supporter of a bigger sugar quota for Trujilloland."

While Cooley denies he ever had any special interest in the Dominican sugar industry, ever since the mid-80s at least there have been rumors of how this Congressman or that was in Trujillo's "pocket" on the sugar quota issue. And if the Trujillo era archives are carefully searched by the Senate investigators, as they should be, the chances are that "sugar payoffs" going back 30 years or more and involving 10 or 20 onetime members of Congress can be pinpointed.

Ex-Cabinet Officer's Fat Sugar Fees

The whole sugar lobbying mess is sickening, particularly the disclosure that those Americans willing to sell their "influence peddling" ability to foreign governments, more often than not had done for a bonus arrangement if they made good.

Take the case of Oscar Chapman, who was Secretary of the Interior under Harry Truman. Chapman, as a sugar agent for the Mexican government, gets an annual \$50,000 fee, and has an arrangement where he will be paid \$18,000 or more in contingent fees based on the number of tons of increase in Mexico's sugar quota.

This is an incentive proposition. If it means anything, it means that these lobbyists will put a little extra heat on Congress, perhaps on occasion raise the ante for a vote on the "right side." It is most conducive to shady deals and of course the foreign employers don't care about methods. All they want are results and will pay extra for same.